

REPORT ON MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

1. What is your name and which program did you attend?

My name is Francesco Clavorà Braulin and I attended the Erasmus+ programme.

2. Where and when did you go during your Erasmus program?

I attended the Erasmus+ programme during the second semester of my final year as a Master of Science student in Economics and I was in Belgium (Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven) at the Faculty of Economics.

3. How did you like living there?

Leuven is a beautiful little city near Brussels (only 15 minutes by train from the International airport of Brussels Zaventem – Not Charleroi!). It is not so easy to find a very nice private accommodation at a reasonable price, but my advice is to look for some place not so far from the city center (of course, it also depends on the location of your faculty – Law, Economics, Philosophy are all near Grote Markt): especially during the winter months it is not so comfortable to take the bike also in the evening or at night to go back home, better by walk. I was at five minutes distance from Oude Markt (all the best pubs are here) and it was perfect.

Another advice is to go on the very first day to the Housing office: if you want to find a private accommodation they can give you the contacts of all the landlords already verified by the university itself. It is possible also to ask for a phone, in order to call the property owners and set some appointments. It is always better to see the house before signing whatever type of agreement. I bought a hostel for three days, during this time, I visited many houses, and in the end, I made my choice.

4. What about *the University*?

It is possible to find beautiful libraries all around the city, and it is perfect to go there to study. The best one is the Central Library. Courses are all well organized and university Provides the help you need in all stages of your stay, from the first day to the last one, so don't be scared.

5. What is the level of the courses? Did you find similarities to those in Tor Vergata?

If you want to choose an Advanced master course at the faculty of Economics and Business keep in mind that more than a half of students attending those courses are PhD students, so the level is quite high. I recommend the course in Advanced Industrial economics, if you are interested in this topic, of course.

From the point of view of the theory employed during the course the level is more or less the one we have here, but from the point of view of practical applications of what you learn in class they are incomparably better than Tor Vergata.

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6. Is there any particular advise that you would like to give to another student who will go there in the future?

Some practical advices: - if you need to go to a supermarket, go to the Kolruyt (one of the cheapest and biggest in town)

- Make use of the Sports center! (it is free and you can do all the sports you want)
- Subscribe for a Belgian SIM card (my advice is Lycamobile)
- Go to Pangea, where the ESN is.

Some other advices:

- Travel a lot, whenever you have time (and money). Brussels is so close, but by train you can reach every city in Belgium (they are all beautiful). During the weekends the train ticket is half price.
- In my opinion the best place to go out in the evening is the Social Club, in Oude Markt.

7. Do you wish to be contacted for further information by interested students?

Please no